

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal conflict, I was unable to make votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 43, and YEA on Roll Call No. 44.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR
SLADE GORTON ON HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my dear friend and mentor, Senator Slade Gorton, on recently turning 90 years of age. On January 8th, Senator Gorton celebrated this special day, and I join him in this celebration of a rich life full of achievements and service.

Born on January 8, 1928, Senator Gorton has dedicated his life to serving my home state of Washington and our country. He start-

ed his lifetime of service to this country in the United States military, serving in the Army, as a Lieutenant in the Air Force, and as a Colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Senator Gorton began his career in politics in 1959 when he was first elected to the Washington State House of Representatives. He served in the State House for ten years and was chosen by his peers as majority leader from 1967 to 1969.

He left that role to serve Washingtonians in a different capacity as State Attorney General for twelve years until 1981. Never willing to give up a fight for what he believed to be right, Senator Gorton argued 14 cases before the United States Supreme Court. During his term as Attorney General, on October 17, 1975, I had the great honor of receiving the Law Enforcement Award of Commendation from Attorney General Gorton as a young Sheriff's Deputy.

But he wasn't through fighting for the interests of Washingtonians. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1981, dedicating eighteen years to representing Washington on some of the most impactful committees in the chamber including Appropriations; Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Energy and Natural Resources. Well respected by his colleagues, Senator Gorton served in Republican leadership as counsel to the majority leader.

Following his service in elected office, Senator Gorton has continued to serve the people of Washington and the United States. In 2002, he was asked to be on the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) established by Congress and President George W. Bush. This commission published a report on the circumstances of the September 11th terrorist attacks on our country and included recommendations for how to guard against future attacks.

After an exceptional career in public service, Senator Gorton continues to mentor and educate the rising leaders of the next generation through the Slade Gorton International Policy Center.

I am privileged to consider Senator Gorton a close friend and am honored to celebrate his accomplishments and distinguished career. As I started my own career in politics, Senator Gorton took the time to share with me his experiences and expertise. I am better for his support and encouragement. He was a wonderful example and influence to me, as I took office, on how to best serve the people from our home state of Washington. I am forever grateful.

I join with his family, friends, and Washington's Eighth District in congratulating him on this special occasion and wishing him a wonderful 90th.